

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES
U.S. Application No.: 09/297,382

C2
11. (Twice amended) The link according to claim 9, wherein the wavelength modulation means effect wavelength modulation with a modulation rate in the range from 0.5 kHz to 10 GHz.

12. (Thrice amended) The link according to claim 9, wherein the wavelength modulation means vary the wavelength over a range greater than a few times the bit rate of the link.

C3
14. (Amended) An amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback of the amplifiers to enable COTDR, said fiber optic link comprising means for widening the spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction, wherein the means for widening the spectrum comprises phase modulation means.

C4
18. (Twice amended) The method claimed in claim 16, wherein the modulation rate is in the range from 0.5 kHz to 10 GHz.

C5
21. (Amended) A method of reducing interaction between the signal in one transmission direction and backscattered noise originating from the other transmission direction in an amplified and non-bi-directional fiber optic link including optical loopback of the amplifiers to enable COTDR, wherein a spectrum of the signal in at least one transmission direction is widened by phase modulation.